

Message Text

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46

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-11

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6664

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT OF SPAIN 1698

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, TD

SUBJ: JAMES MANSWELL ELECTED TTLC PRESIDENT

REF: POS A-38, MAY 9, 1974; POS A-43, MAY 30, 1974

1. AFTER TWO YEARS OF POSTPONING ELECTIONS DUE TO THE INABILITY OF TRINIDADIAN LABOR LEADERS TO AGREE ON A COMMON CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT OF THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO LABOR CONGRESS (TTLC), THE TTLC MET ON JUNE 14 AND ELECTED JAMES MANSWELL, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE ASSOCIATION (PSA), TO BE ITS NEW PRESIDENT. MANSWELL NARROWLY DEFEATED SENATOR CARL TULL, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS UNION (CWU), WHO HAD BEEN CAMPAIGNING VIGOROUSLY TO BECOME TTLC PRESIDENT.

2. OTHER TTLC OFFICERS ELECTED ARE THE FOLLOWING: FIRST VICE PRESIDENT-NATHANIEL CRICHLOW (UNOPPOSED), FORMERLY TTLC PRESIDENT; SECOND VICE PRESIDENT - SENATOR VERNON GLEAN (ALSO UNOPPOSED), PRESIDENT OF THE SEAMEN AND WATERFRONT WORKERS TRADE UNION (SWWTU); THIRD VICE PRESIDENT-CARL TULL WON THIS POST BY DEFEATING MRS. URSULA GITTENS, PRESIDENT GENERAL OF THE PSA.

THE FOLLOWING OPERATING OFFICERS OF THE TTLC WERE ELECTED
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(OR IN MOST CASES RE-ELECTED) WITHOUT OPPOSITION: GENERAL

SECRETARY--CYRIL GONZALES (INCUMBENT); DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARY-KELVIN PIERRE, PRESIDENT GENERAL OF THE TRINIDAD & TOBAGO POSTMEN'S UNION (TTPU); ASSISTANT SECRETARY-BENTLEY BOUGOUNEAU, GRIEVANCE OFFICER; SWWTU; AND FINANCIAL SECRETARY-VAS STANFORD (INCUMBENT), PRESIDENT OF THE UNION OF COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL WORKERS (UCIW). THE TTLC ALSO ELECTED THREE TRUSTEES: MRS. URSULA GITTENS; CYRIL LOPEZ, PRESIDENT OF THE AMALGAMATED WORKERS UNION (AWU); AND ELTON PETERS, PRESIDENT OF THE COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPORT TRADE UNION (CATTU).

3. COMMENT: THE TTLC HAD BEEN UNABLE TO ELECT A NEW SLATE OF OFFICERS SINCE 1972, AND PRESIDENT NATHANIEL CRICHLOW HAD TWICE POSTPONED MEETINGS OF THE BIENNIAL CONVENTION BECAUSE OF THE INABILITY TO AGREE UPON A NEW PRESIDENT BY PRIOR CONSENSUS (SEE REFAIRS). ALTHOUGH SENATOR TULL HAD CAMPAIGNED STRONGLY FOR THE TTLC PRESIDENCY, HIS CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH THE RULING PEOPLE'S NATIONAL MOVEMENT (PNM) HAD REPORTEDLY MADE HIM UNACCEPTABLE TO SOME OF THE MEMBER UNIONS OF THE TTLC (ESPECIALLY THE PSA). THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE PSA CONSISTS OF THE MONTHLY PAID GOVERNMENT CIVIL SERVANTS. MANSWELL HAS RUN THE UNION CAPABLY AND IS REGARDED AS A STRONG AND INDEPENDENT UNION LEADER. IRONICALLY, HE IS NOT CONSIDERED TO BE POPULAR WITH OTHER UNIONISTS, DESPITE HIS ELECTION AS TTLC PRESIDENT. IT IS THUS POSSIBLE THAT MANSWELL'S ELECTION IS MORE A REJECTION OF TULL (AND HIS POLITICAL TIES) THAN IT IS AN AFFIRMATION OF MANSWELL.
MILLER

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